THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) India had, in June 2004, during the Foreign Secretary level discussions, as a part of the composite dialogue, proposed a number of cooperation measures to Pakistan for enhancing people to people contact across the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), including the Jammu-Sialkot bus link.

These proposals, including the Jammu-Sailkot bus link, would be implemented once there is positive response from Pakistan and details have been agreed upon.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of Secretaries abroad on diplomatic passport

1746. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretaries to Government of India from Scientific Departments are eligible to visit abroad on diplomatic passport while visiting abroad as per invitation received by the officer in his personal capacity and after leave sanctioned by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of diplomatic passport allowed to be used by the Secretaries to Government of India from Ministry of Science and Technology for the last three years including the country visited and the purpose of visit, year-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Rules do not allow use of diplomatic passports for personal or private visits abroad.